Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has installed 1163 towers so far in the State of Andhra Pradesh for Global System for Mobile Communication (GSM) based Mobile Services.

(b) Range of a mobile base station depends on topography of the surrounding areas, vegetations clusters of buildings in the vicinity of the base station, height of the Antenna, output transmitted power and Antenna characteristic etc. Subject to these conditions, typically the range of a tower varies between 300m to 5 Kms.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of (c) above.

Launching of 3-G services

2124. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) by when Government are going to launch third generation (3-G) services which helps in high speed download of data and video clips on mobiles;

(b) whether this is in continuation of 2/2.5/2.75-G services like GPRS and EDGE;

(c) whether any consultations have been held in this connection with the stakeholders; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No time frame has been fixed for introduction of 3-G technology.

(b) The IMT-2000 3-G services and 2/2.5/2.75-G services like GPRS and EDGE operate in different frequency bands.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) had conducted a consultation process on this issue through its consultation paper on "spectrum related issues". Based on the comments received in the

consultation process, International practices and its own analysis, TRAI finalized its recommendations.

Quality of services provided by BSNL in Bihar

†2125. SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards deterioration in quality of telephone and mobile services being provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. in Bihar;

(b) whether Government are aware that the problem of network jam is getting serious day by day and the consumers are facing great difficulty; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to bring improvement in the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, landline telephone and mobile services of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in Bihar are not deteriorating and are generally satisfactory.

(b) Some congestion in mobile services was observed recently in some areas during busy hours when augmentation of the mobile network in Bihar Telecom Service Area was in progress. Occasional congestion in landline services during busy hours was also observed.

(c) Following steps are taken for improvement of the situation of congestion:

(i) sufficient expansion of Trunk Automatic Exchange (TAX) capacity has been planned during the next two years.

(ii) Global System for Mobile Communication (GSM) based Mobile Network is being continuously augmented and optimized for its performance.

(iii) The network is being monitored regularly.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.